

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-02 OMB-01 EA-11

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /168 W
----- 091796

R 161140Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9702

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

E.O.11652: N/A DECON 8-16-75

TAGS: PINS PFOR PLO XF

SUBJECT: FEDAYEEN INTERNAL MANEUVERS

REF: BEIRUT 9719 AND 9219

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1. FACED WITH THREAT BY PFLP, PFLP/GC AND ALF TO SECEDE FROM PLO IF 'ARAFAT AND CO. CONTINUE TO PLAY BALL WITH EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB GOVTS WHICH SEEK PEACEFUL ME SETTLEMENT, CERTAIN "MODERATE" FEDAYEEN LEADERS ARE TRYING TO ALLAY "REJECTIONIST" FEARS BY PLAYING DOWN SIGNIFICANCE WHICH 'ARAFAT'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW MAY HOLD FOR SOME FUTURE PLO ASSOCIATION WITH SETTLEMENT EFFORT. FOR EXAMPLE, SA'IQA'S ZOHAYR MUHSEN QUOTED HERE AUG 14 AS SAYING PLO DEL IN MOSCOW HAD ACTUALLY REJECTED SOV PRESSURES AIMED AT GAINING PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. HE NOTED SOVS HAD INSISTED ON REFERRING TO GENEVA CONFERENCE IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, BUT SAID PLO DEL HAD REFUSED AND SOVS HAD HAD TO SETTLE FOR UNILATERAL PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER PLO DEL HAD LEFT MOSCOW. MUHSEN ALSO SAID CHANCES OF RESUMING GENEVA TALKS ARE SLIM AND PREDICTED EARLY RETURN OF "NO WAR--NO PEACE" CONDITIONS TO ME. AT SAME TIME, 'ARAFAT REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN PRESIDING OVER SERIES OF MEETINGS HERE DESCRIBED AS AIMED AT "PRESERVING NATIONAL UNITY" (THIS IS CUSTOMARY FEDAYEEN EUPHEMISM FOR EFFORTS TO SWEET-TALK RECALCITRANT ELEMENTS).

2. IN MEANTIME, PFLP SPOKESMAN BASSAM ABU SHARIF WAS ATTEMPTING ON AUG 15 TO TAKE STING OUT OF RATHER SENSATIONAL CHARGES LEVELLED AGAINST GEORGE HABASH IN SOVIET LITERARY ORGAN EARLIER THIS WEEK. (ALF REPORT FROM MOSCOW AUG 14 QUOTED "LITERARY GZAETTE" AS CALLING HABASH "PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARY" WHOSE "IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS AND RADICALISM ONLY SERVE ENEMIES OF PALESTINIAN AND ARAB PEOPLES". SOV PUBLICATION ALSO REPORTEDLY BLASTED HABASH FOR BEING MAOIST STOOGE TO WHOM "PEACE AND SOCIALISM ARE INCOMPATIBLE" AND FOR OBSTRUCTING TRUE PALESTINIAN INTERESTS (I.E., BY OPPOSING PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA). SHARIF'S AGGRIEVED RETORT WAS THAT SOV ARTICLE "MUST HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY SOME IRRESPONSIBLE PERSON".

3. COMMENT: EFFORTS BY FEDAYEEN "MODERATE" LEADERSHIP TO PULL MORE WOOL OVER EYES OF DIE-HARDS WHILE CONTINUING PREPARATIONS TO ATTEND UPCOMING EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN-PLO TRIPARTITE MEETINGS IN CAIRO (REFTEL) ARE NOT SUPRISING. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE SUSPECT NO ONE IS BEING FOOLED. HOWEVER, WE SURMISE THAT HABAH AND OTHER "REJECTIONIST" FEDAYEEN LEADERS MAY BE TRIFLE DISCOMFITED BY SIGNS THAT SOVS HAVE BEGUN OPENLY TO DISCREDIT THEM FOR CONTINUING TO OPPOSE 'ARAFAT AND HIS POLICIES. SEEMS CLEAR ALSO THAT SOVS WERE NETTLED BY HABASH'S RECENT CRITICISM OF MOSCOW'S SUPPORT FOR ME SETTLEMENT (PARA 3 BEIRUT 9219). GODLEY

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